

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement with regard to claims 1-22. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

| <u>GROUP</u> | <u>CLAIMS</u> | <u>CLASSIFICATION</u> |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| I | 1-9 | Class 73, subclass 864.31 |
| II | 10-21 | Class 422, subclass 100 |
| III | 22 | Class 436, subclass 180. |

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicant has elected claims 10-21 for initial examination. However, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the restriction requirement since no serious burden would be presented to the Examiner by examining all of the claims in a single application.

At set forth in Section 803 of the MPEP, the Examiner must examine an application on the merits if the examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Two criteria are identified for proper restriction. For proper requirement for restriction:

- (1) The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and
- (2) There must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not required.

Applicant respectfully submits that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider all of the claims in the present application and to withdraw the restriction requirement.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, claims 10-21 have been elected with traverse. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims at a later date if he so desires.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

It should be noted that an Information Disclosure Statement was submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 17, 2001. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial the copy of the PTO-1449 attached thereto and forward a copy with the next Office communication.

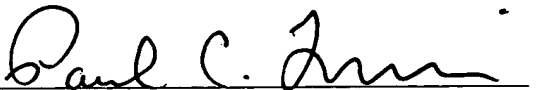
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mr. Paul C. Lewis (Reg. No. 43,368) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$200 is being filed concurrently herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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